

In the Claims:

Please replace the claims, including all prior versions, with the listing of claims below.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ for obtaining a correctively adjusted output signal from ~~the~~ a measuring signal, ~~having a periodic pressure dependence~~, of a lambda probe ~~(4)~~ located in ~~the~~ an exhaust of an internal combustion engine ~~(1)~~, whereby said measuring signal is sampled in a time-slot pattern and averaged through totaling over a specified summation period, said period corresponding to the period of oscillation ~~(TP1, TP2)~~, dependent on engine speed, of pressure pulsations of the exhaust, wherein,

~~characterized in that~~

- the continuously-sampled individual values of the measuring signal are buffered in a memory area of a memory ~~(11)~~ of a control device ~~(8)~~ for the internal combustion engine ~~(1)~~, and
- ~~in that~~ the averaging ~~that~~ includes a number N1, corresponding to the summation period, of individual values sampled in the time-slot pattern, and is initiated by the control device ~~(8)~~ at each instant ~~(t_n)~~ at which an updated probe output signal is required,
- wherein totaling is carried out across the N1 individual values block-by-block and ~~already starts~~ begins before ~~the~~ an update time ~~(t_n)~~, so that the block values already formed continuously block-by-block up to the update time ~~(t_n)~~ and buffered ~~instead of the respective individual values~~ are used for calculating an average.

2. (currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ block-by-block totaling is carried out over ~~in each case~~ M1 sequentially sampled and buffered individual values ~~(M1 block)~~ and is performed in a block time-slot pattern corresponding to M1 times the sampling time-slot pattern ~~(sampling rate)~~, and ~~in that~~ the update times ~~(t_n)~~ are synchronized with the M1 block time-slot pattern.

3. (currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 2, wherein

~~characterized in that~~ in cases where ~~the~~ number $N1$ does not correspond to a multiple N of $M1$, ~~the~~ first $N1 - N * M1$ individual values in ~~the~~ last sampled $M1$ block that extend beyond a maximum multiple $N * M1$ are included individually in a current averaging, while the remaining individual values in said $M1$ block are ~~left out of consideration and are~~ only included in ~~the~~ averaging following ~~the~~ current averaging in the form of a block value to be formed for ~~this~~ the entire $M1$ block and buffered.

4. (currently amended) The method Method according to claim 2

~~characterized in that~~ wherein.

- ~~in cases where~~ when the number $N1$ does not correspond to a multiple N of $M1$, each $M1$ block is split into two partial blocks $B1$ and $B2$, ~~wherein~~ the partial block $B2$ ~~contains~~ containing the last $N1 - N * M1$ individual values in ~~the~~ respective $M1$ block that extend beyond a maximum multiple $N * M1$ and ~~wherein~~ the partial block $B1$ ~~contains~~ containing the remaining first $M1 - (N1 - N * M1)$ individual values in the $M1$ block,
- ~~in that~~ the ~~two~~ respective partial blocks $B1$ and $B2$ are totaled block-by-block in a block time-slot pattern into partial block values MW_B1 and MW_B2 , which are buffered in place of the respective individual values,
- and ~~in that~~ the two partial block values in the N last processed $M1$ blocks and the partial block value MW_B2 of the $M1$ block processed immediately before the N last $M1$ blocks are used for current averaging.

5. (currently amended) The method Method according to claim 4 wherein.

~~characterized in that in the case of at least one of the processed $M1$ blocks~~ one of the two partial block lengths in a processed $M1$ block is also buffered until current averaging.

6. (currently amended) The method Method according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the memory area is operated in ~~the~~ ring memory mode.

7. (currently amended) The method Method according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the measuring signal of a lambda probe ~~(4) which has~~ having a continuous characteristic curve of

said measuring signal and ~~which is~~ located upstream of a catalytic converter ~~(5)~~ of the internal combustion engine ~~(1)~~ is evaluated.

8. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the measuring signal has a periodic pressure dependence.